Seizure of Arms, Ammunition and Contraband on Nepal Border

3038. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of arms, ammunition, narcotics and other contraband has recently been seized on Nepal border; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof alongwith the number of persons arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has seized some quantity of arms/ammunition, narcotics and other contraband items on Indo-Nepal border during the years 2004 and 2005 (till July). The items seized include guns, cartridges, explosive substances, *charas* and *ganja.* During this period, SSB has apprehended 184 and 124 persons respectively in connection with smuggling of these items.

Tribals taking to insurgency and Naxalism

3039. SHRI KB. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) is it true that tribals are taking to insurgency in the North East and to naxalism in other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps had initiated to improve the condition of tribals viz. land reforms collecting forest produce, water bodies etc.; and

(d) what steps are being taken by the Government to combat this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There is no perceptible increase in the strength of the tribals who are taking to insurgency in the North East

or in the naxal affected States. The number of violence incidents in the North-East during the current year till 31st July, 2005, has reduced by 5% compared to the corresponding period in 2004. The naxal affected violence has reduced by 8% during this period.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government to improve the conditions of the tribals in the North-Eastern States and naxal affected States. These *inter alia* include following:

(i) The State Governments have accepted the policy of prohibiting the transfer of land from tribals and for restoration of alienated tribal lands to them. The States with large tribal population have since enacted laws for this purpose.

(ii) A scheme for raising non-timber forest produce has been formulated to benefit the tribal population who depend upon the minor forest produce. The scheme aims at conservation and improvement of the minor forest produce including medicinal plants by adopting effective production and appropriate silvicultural practices.

(iii) An Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) has been formulated. It, *inter alia,* provides to include new Minor Irrigation Schemes with potential of more than 100 hectares in Non-Special Category States with preference to Tribal Areas and drought prone areas.

(iv) Naxal affected States have been asked to implement the land reforms and Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act expeditiously. Other measures taken are focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and removal of socio-cultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to combat the problem of insurgency and naxalism, which *inter alia* include deployment of Army and Central Paramilitary Forces, coordinated action by the security forces for counter insurgency/naxalism operations, modernization/upgradation of the State Police Forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure and declaration of militant organizations as 'unlawful associations'. The Government has also extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks within the framework of the Indian Constitution.